

***Pikle- The Diary Junction, and The Diary Review***

Websites maintained by *Paul K Lyons*

This is a brief note/review of two related websites *Pikle- The Diary Junction*, and *The Diary Review*, found at <http://www.pikle.co.uk/diaryjunction.html> and <http://thediaryjunction.blogspot.com/> respectively, maintained by *Paul K Lyons*.

What did Queen Victoria write about Prince Albert? What did Lady Mary Coke, a friend of the politician and historian, Horace Walpole, have to say about Walpole when he visited her? What thoughts occupied the pen of Robert Louis Stevenson and Leo Tolstoy? The answers to these and many other historical questions can be found in these two excellent websites devoted to diaries.

“Pikle- The Diary Junction” is a minimally-formatted site that lists all the available authors in alphabetical order, whereas the “Diary Review” blog site is attractive and has good links to selected authors by subject area and country. The blog presents snippets from many of the authors and provides a tantalizing taste of what is available.

One recent blog post titled “Friday, September 16, 2011, Kaempfer’s Japan” said, “Today marks 360 years since the birth of the German doctor and naturalist, Engelbert Kaempfer. His fame rests on two books, both largely about Japan, where he stayed for two years during a period when the country was very much closed to foreigners. The British Library holds some of Kaempfer’s diaries, and one of his published books - *History of Japan* - contains several narratives for journeys which Kaempfer must have based on his diaries.”

The author then proceeds to outline the significance of Kaempfer’s diary and work and gives links to various references. All other entries are similarly academic and resource-rich.

These sites are a great treasure for students of pre-modern and modern history.

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